

President's BOR Report June 2020

This report is structured with “duties and responsibilities” for the president of the college.

The responsibility and authority of the CEO for the quality of the institution is derived from the PL7-79, chapter 7, Section 21, (1)(IV.B.2) and Section 21(2)(IV.B.3) authorizes the CEO to approve the selection and appointment of employees of the college.

- A. Fulfill all obligations of the president as outlined in 40 FSMC 721 of the establishment law of the college.

As outlined in the Self Evaluation of December 15, 2015, report specifically on Standard IV.B.1- *“The institutional chief executive officer (CEO) has primary responsibility for the quality of the institution. The CEO provides effective leadership in planning, organizing, budgeting, selecting, and developing personnel, and assessing institutional effectiveness.”*

I have been and will continue to rely on the very capable team of vice presidents to assist in running the college in the absence of a full-time president. We continue to work as a team and have had four cabinet meetings to discuss continued operation of the college in these unusual times.

COVID-19 Response Update Since April

The college received permission from FSM National government, ACCJC and the U.S. Department of Education in March to end the spring 2020 semester on March 16, 2020.

In, April, the college applied for and received CARES Act Funding. This funding comes in two parts. The first part (\$1.8m) was to “provide students with emergency financial aid grants to help cover expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus.” Examples are a student’s cost of attendance, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care.” The students also had to be eligible for Pell Grant. Each institution determined which students received this funding. The criteria used by COM-FSM was:

- Registered for Spring 2020 semester as a new, continuing or returning student
- Eligible for Pell Grant funding
- Did not graduate spring 2020 (Graduates finished the semester prior to CARES Act Funding established by law on March 27, 2020. The graduates did not experience expenses related to their education at the college post graduation. The grant funding could not be used to pay for previous balances owed by students.)
- Did not completely withdraw prior to March 16, 2020

Students received varying amounts depending on how many credits they registered for in spring 2020.

The college received part 2 of the CARES Act funding (\$1.8m) in late May. This funding is for the institution and must be used for costs directly related to instruction. So far the college has made changes to the Student information system to allow for registration in online courses, bought a license to implement a Help Desk function on the college webpage. Students and faculty, among others, will be able to get support for online learning through this Help Desk function.

The college drafted a Response Plan for COVID-19 similar to each state's and the FSM response plans. The college takes temperatures of everyone coming on campuses, keeps a log of visitors and employees, encourages social distancing in all buildings, provides access to hand sanitizers (when available) or hand washing facilities. Computer labs are open for student use with social distancing in practice.

Plans for fall include a blended delivery mode with some online classes and some face-to-face classes.

B. Retain and maintain full accreditation from ACCJC/WASC.

ACCJC along with the U.S. Department of Education approved the shortened term for spring 2020 semester. ACCJC approved online delivery mode for the summer term.

The Commission acted on the mid-term report at the June 10th meeting and the college is waiting for notification of the result.

C. Ensure development of the next Strategic Plan 2018 – 2023 and Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 has been completed and approved by the BOR. The cycle of planning at the college indicates it is time to begin collecting data and information to review the mission, vision and strategic directions to inform the next strategic plan.

D. Continue to assess the organizational structure and reporting procedures and make changes as needed for a more efficient and effective institution.

Cabinet continues to meet to discuss a wide range of topics and issues. I continue to meet with each vice president individually as needed to ensure effective leadership and continuity at this time of transition.

E. Implement a Reengineering/Sustainability Plan to ensure long-term sustainability of COM-FSM.

Continue with current plans for long-range sustainability.

F. Continue and strengthen internal leadership capacity building efforts.

The college provides resources for faculty and staff to take courses, earn degrees, and attend conferences and trainings that support their development and service to the college.

G. Enhance overall standing of COM-FSM and advocate for the college in all areas.

Memberships in the Association of Community College Trustees and the American Association of Community Colleges are current. Information regarding workshop and conference opportunities with these agencies and ACCJC are shared with faculty and staff.

As Interim President I am focusing on prioritizing the National Infrastructure Development Plan, specifically Chuuk Campus construction, the need to retain and attract qualified personnel, monitor Compact renegotiation or termination and develop contingency plans, build on fund-raising, grant-writing, and endowment-building capacity and providing quality educational experiences during COVID-19 pandemic. These agenda items will remain as a focus unless directed differently by the Board of Regents.